



Walking School Bus

How-to Guide for Parents



The following is a guide for parents on how to implement a Walking School Bus program in their neighborhood.

What is a Walking School Bus?

If your children already walk to school with an adult, then congratulations — you have a Walking School Bus! A Walking School Bus is a group of children walking to and from school with one or more adults. It's like a carpool — without the car — and with the added benefits of exercise and the company of friends and neighbors.

A Walking School Bus helps to:

- Increase daily physical activity for children and adults in the neighborhood.
- Increase safety for pedestrians in the neighborhood.
- Reduce traffic in and around the neighborhood and school.
- Increase community cohesion by helping neighbors get to know one another.

Why develop a Walking School Bus?

Studies show that fewer children are walking and biking to school now compared to 20 years ago. Safety is often the main reason parents are hesitant to let their children walk to school. Encouraging students to walk to school requires creative solutions that are safe and fun — a Walking School Bus can be both.



Template documents are available for free download at udot.utah.gov/snap



How do you start a Walking School Bus?

1. Send a letter to parents in your neighborhood. (Visit udot.utah.gov/snap for a sample letter.)
2. Go door-to-door, inviting families to participate.
3. Recruit a few trusted parent volunteers to rotate walking days.
4. Determine safest route based on your school's SNAP Map.
5. Inform school administrators and encourage them to organize a program (optional).
6. Mobilize parents and volunteers and start walking.

Can students who ride the bus or live outside school boundaries still participate?

Yes. If you live too far to walk to school, your children can still participate in a Walking School Bus. Simply designate a route that begins at an approved drop-off location a mile or less from school. Invite other parents to serve as chaperones on those routes, and designate a drop-off and pick-up time each day.

Where can you find a copy of the school's SNAP MAP?

A SNAP Map is a map that shows the safest way to walk and bike to school. Contact your principal to get a copy of your school's SNAP Map, and let him/her know if updates are needed to the routes.

More information is available at udot.utah.gov/snap.



SNAPTM
Student Neighborhood
Access Program